

Northwest Interagency Coordination Center

News Release

Northwest MAC Group

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Northwest Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (MAC) Activated

A weekend lightning storm igniting hundreds of wildland fires throughout Oregon and Washington has led to the activation of a NW Multi-Agency Coordinating Group (MAC).

The MAC is made of representatives of the Pacific Northwest Wildland Fire Group consisting of representatives from the Washington Department of Natural Resources, Oregon Department of Forestry, USDA Forest Service, Bureau of Indian Affairs, National Park Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Bureau of Land Management. The MAC establishes priorities for allocation of resources such as incident management teams, fire crews, and air tankers between wildland fires in Oregon and Washington. The NW MAC Group works closely with the National MAC Group located in Boise, ID at the National Interagency Fire Center in the allocation of national firefighting resources. The MAC also initiates special actions to alleviate resource shortages to meet anticipated wildland firefighting demands.

The MAC is co-located with the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center near the Portland International Airport.

“The sheer number of starts over the weekend is surprising,” said Gary Larsen, MAC Group Coordinator, and Mount Hood Forest Supervisor. “We are currently sizing up the situation and making the best match possible between firefighting resources and wildland fires.”

Each day the MAC will prioritize wildland fires in Oregon and Washington determining which fires will be first in line to receive firefighting suppression resources.

The MAC prioritization criteria for wildland fires in order are:

- 1) Potential to destroy or harm human life
- 2) Potential to destroy communities, community infrastructure, historically significant cultural resources, commercial business, year-round homes, seasonal homes, barns and utility buildings.
- 3) Potential to adversely impact cultural and natural resource values
- 4) Probability of meeting incident (fire suppression) objectives

A severe drought throughout much of the West has launched the nation into one of the most severe wildland fire season in the last 50 years. The safety of firefighters and the public is always the first consideration in fire suppression.

For more information go to: www.or.blm.gov/nwcc

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Natural Resources



Oregon Fire Chiefs
Association